

REPORT
OF
SUPERINTENDENT
OF
LUNATIC ASYLUM
TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.
NOVEMBER, 1854.

RALEIGH :
W. W. HOLDEN, PRINTER TO THE STATE.
1854.

RALEIGH, DECEMBER 5, 1854.

*To the Honorable, the Speaker
of the House of Commons.*

As Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for building the Lunatic Asylum, I have the honor to lay before your honorable body, the report of the Commissioners with the accompanying documents.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. MOREHEAD,

*Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
for building the Lunatic Asylum.*

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

*To the Honorable the General Assembly
of the State of North Carolina :*

The Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum for the State of North Carolina respectfully report—

That soon after the passage of the act of the last session, authorising the appointment of a competent medical Superintendent to take charge of the building of the Asylum, they tendered the appointment to Dr. Edmund Strudwick, of Hillsboro', a gentleman whom they believed eminently qualified for the office. He declined accepting it permanently, but for the purpose of enabling the commissioners to carry on their operations, consented to accept it temporarily until his place could be supplied.

The commissioners were unable to secure the services of any medical gentleman in the State, who was willing to undertake the discharge of the duties upon the terms proposed, and whom they believed properly qualified, and they therefore tendered the office to Dr. Edward C. Fisher, of Richmond, Virginia, who had had considerable experience in the management and construction of similar institutions, having been for several years associated with Dr. F. Stribbling, the able and accomplished Superintendent of the Western Asylum of Virginia, at Staunton.

This appointment was made on the 1st September, 1853, and Dr. Fisher having accepted it, and given bond and security as required by the act, entered soon after upon the discharge of his duties as Superintendent, and has had the exclusive charge of the building, under the general supervision of the Commissioners. To his report, therefore, which accompanies this, the commissioners beg to refer for all necessary information as to the details and state of the finances of the Asylum.

It will be seen on reference to his report, that the fund set

apart by the Legislature for the purpose will not be sufficient for its completion, and as it is very desirable that the building should be completed and prepared as speedily as possible for the reception of that unfortunate class of persons for whose accommodation it is designed, the Commissioners respectfully recommend that an appropriation of a sum sufficient to effect this object be at once made, either by way of loan to be hereafter refunded out of the tax levied for that purpose, or in such other manner as the Legislature may think proper.

As the Asylum will no doubt be prepared for the reception of patients before another session of the Legislature will take place, the Commissioners recommend that the appointment of the trustees designated in the sixth section of the act establishing the Asylum, be made at the present session, as on that board devolves the appointment of the superintending Physician.

As in the general revision of the laws, the act establishing the Lunatic Asylum will no doubt undergo some modification, the Commissioners would direct the attention of your body especially to the provision for the support of those persons who may be admitted into the asylum as indigent inmates, and submit to your consideration whether the appropriation for their support should form a charge upon the particular county of which the patient may be resident, or upon the State at large.

The Commissioners take this opportunity of expressing their entire satisfaction with the manner in which the present Superintendent has discharged the important trust confided to him, and think they have cause to congratulate themselves and the State in having been so fortunate as to secure the services of a gentleman so well qualified for the task, and who has devoted himself with so much fidelity and ability to the interests of the Asylum.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. MOREHEAD,

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

RALEIGH, Dec. 4, 1854.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

GENTLEMEN :—Having received the appointment of superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at your hands on the 16th day of September, 1853, in consequence of the resignation of the same, by Dr. E. Strudwick, I accepted the same to take effect on the first day of October following, at which time I removed to the City of Raleigh, and entered upon its duties.

At that time the work of construction was being executed by the several contractors, principally under the control and guidance of the members of your Board. While discharging the varied duties growing out of your official positions, which were doubtless oftentimes troublesome, if not harrassing in their character, there is cause for much satisfaction to yourselves in the reflection that those services have been rendered without any other recompence than that which the benevolent and public spirited citizen always enjoys from the bestowal of his services in aid of the needy and helpless, and for the best interests of his State. During the past year, these duties have devolved upon me, and if I have discharged them with even partial satisfaction to yourselves, I am fully compensated therefor, in knowing that I have relieved you from the discharge of the same.

In submitting this my first report to you, it may not be uninteresting to yourselves, or to the Legislature of the State, to furnish a detailed statement of the work bestowed upon the building of the Asylum, from the commencement down to the present time.

On entering upon my duties, the first of October last, I found that upon the massive and substantial stone foundation, extending throughout the entire length and breadth of the *main* building, there had been laid the brick walls of

the central portion, and north wing of the requisite height, with their various partition walls. These several parts of the building had likewise received their appropriate roofings of suitable timbers, all protected by a well executed tin covering. The walls of the *south wing* being then under process of construction, were raised to the third story by Christmas, when it was found necessary, in consequence of cold weather and other causes, to suspend further operations upon them. The *interior* of the *central* portion had alone received its flooring ; each story, however, having previously been rendered, in a great measure, fire proof, by *counterceiling*, which, in addition to the valuable protection thus afforded in preventing the rapid communication of fire to adjoining apartments, will likewise furnish a serious obstruction to the transmission of *sound* between different stories. The winter months were devoted by the carpenters, under the guidance of Mr. J. W. Conrad, one of the contractors, to fitting the casements of doors and windows, preparing the flooring of wings, and in completing the wood work upon other portions of the building.

With the return of suitable weather in the spring, the contractors resumed the task of making the requisite amount of bricks for the completion of the South wing ; and on the last of August we had the gratification of seeing the *entire* structure built to the required height. As soon as practicable thereafter, the work of completing the roof was begun, and industriously prosecuted, both in the framing of timbers, laying on the sheeting, and in putting on the covering of tin, with a substantial copper guttering, similar in all respects to the other portions of the roofing. Besides the main building, there are two others composing the series, which, though of much smaller dimensions and subordinate in their purposes, will be found to subserve not less important uses in the general operations of the Institution. The first in size and proximity, is located immediately West, and distant therefrom some 80 feet, and in rear of the central portion of

the main building. On the first floor are the kitchen, matron's closet, bakery, and lodging apartments for the baker, the story above being designed to furnish sleeping apartments for the servants employed about the Asylum. The third and last building located still further west of the second and distant therefrom a hundred feet, is designed for the laundry. On its first or ground floor, and occupying the center thereof, is a room seventy-six feet in length by twenty-three in width, for the boilers, steam engine, &c., and on either side of the same, running back thirty feet, are rooms four in number, and intended for workshop, fuel and stock (material for the manufacture of Gas) rooms. The space over the boiler room is designed for the drying apartment (through the aid of the steam,) while the adjoining rooms will be devoted to the purposes of the laundry.

Both of these buildings only need plastering within, and painting, to complete them, and when appropriately occupied, will, we doubt not, be found to serve in an admirable manner, the highly important purposes for which they were designed.

With the exception of comparatively a small amount of brick work still needed for the gas house, chamber for cold air flue, and soil and steam pipes, &c., the above enumeration comprises all of this kind of work which will be needed for the completion of the asylum buildings at present. By reference to the books of the State Treasurer, it will appear that a draft was issued in favor of Messrs. Lane and McNight, on the 7th of October 1854, for the sum of eight thousand one hundred and sixteen dollars, in full of payment to them for their work of making and laying the bricks of the Asylum.

I feel that I should be doing injustice to the reputation of these gentlemen, were I to allow the present occasion to pass without bearing my testimony to the faithful manner in which they, as contractors, have discharged the requirements of their contract. When it is remembered that the original estimates for the brick work did not exceed two millions of brick,

(which were to be made upon the lands of the asylum,) and that it was subsequently ascertained that a very small portion of them could be obtained within the prescribed limits for the want of suitable material, thereby rendering it necessary to haul the larger portion thereof a distance of two miles, it being the nearest point at which suitable clay could be obtained; that notwithstanding these difficulties and the prospect of heavy losses growing out of the advance in the prices of labor and provisions during the progress of the work, they have nevertheless gone on in the faithful execution of their contracts with as much rapidity as the finances of the asylum would justify, to an entire and acceptable completion; it may with much truth be said of them, that they have done the State "some service," and have established for themselves a claim to the highest consideration of its citizens.

PLASTERING.—As it was not deemed important that the plastering should be commenced until the walls had been *wholly* erected, and had become thoroughly dry by the lapse of time, it was not until the middle of last September that the necessary steps to begin this part of the work were taken. Mr. P. A. Russell, the contractor, was then notified that he could commence his operations, and accordingly in a few days he arrived with a sufficient force to carry on his operations with desirable rapidity. With the exception of plastering a portion of the rooms in the north wing, he has thus far been engaged in the *stuccoing* of the kitchen, boiler house and part of the south wing of the principal building. It is proposed to have uniformity of color (externally) of the several buildings, and in doing so, to select such a shade as will combine durability and firmness, at the same time having a due regard to obtain one that will be pleasing to the eye. For this purpose a light *drab*, shaded in resemblance of free stone has been selected, with the belief and hope that it possesses both requisites in as great a degree as any that could be adopted. From the progress already made in the stuccoing during the short time spent thereupon, we may reasonably calculate

upon having that and the plastering completed in the next twelve months.

PAINTING.—In consequence of the unfinished state of the *interior* of the buildings, nothing has been done towards painting the same, while the *exterior* portions from their exposed condition have received much more attention. Upon the roof of the central part and that of the north wing, have been applied two coats of paint, with the requisite amount to the cornice of the same. The workmen being now employed upon the roof of the south wing, will, it is believed, complete the whole by the last of November.

LIGHTING AND HEATING.—Very soon after entering upon my duties as superintendent, it became apparent to my mind that the time had fully come (if not already passed) when the necessary measures should be adopted towards procuring suitable apparatus for lighting and heating the apartment of the institution. This was the more obvious, from the fact that the floors of the central part of the principal building had been laid, thereby creating the necessity of a removal of a portion of them in order to adjust the gas pipes, while at the same time active preparations were in course of progress for similar works in the north wing. Hence arose the greater necessity for prompt action, in order to diminish as much as possible the amount of injury likely to result to the flooring of other parts of the building by a removal thereof, as also the casements through which the pipes would have to pass in their various places of distribution. With the view therefore of bringing this subject, as well as another of not less in importance, to the consideration of the Board of Commissioners, the undersigned, acting upon his own responsibility, decided upon requesting that a meeting thereof should be held at an early day, for the purpose of deliberating thereupon. In accordance with his request, a meeting of the commissioners did convene in this city on the 6th of December last, when the subject was fully discussed, and the relative merits of the two most important agents (other than the ordinary modes of

distributing fires through the building) to wit : steam and hot water were severally canvassed.

As both however were somewhat novel to the commissioners, and my own experience therein being of too limited a character to justify me in being the advocate of either mode, I preferred very greatly to lay before the board the results arrived at by others who, from long experience and familiarity therewith, by daily observations, are, it is to be presumed, eminently qualified to express an enlightened opinion. I accordingly submitted, in the form of a condensed report, the views and opinions of several gentlemen now distinguished superintendents of institutions similar to our own, setting forth in as full a manner as I deemed necessary, the comparative merits of the above named modes of heating large buildings, and also their decided preferences for gas as the *alone* proper material with which to light them.

In consideration of the facts herein detailed, and duly sensible of the importance of some early action on their part, the Board deemed it advisable and necessary that the undersigned should personally visit and inspect those institutions in our country where are to be found the most approved apparatus designed for the different modes of warming, &c., in order that he might be the better qualified to select those, in his opinion, best calculated to gain the proposed ends. In obedience to these instructions from the commissioners, the undersigned, during the following month, (January,) made a tour of inspection to several of the asylums and hospitals of our country, besides various other large buildings appropriated to other purposes, (and at a favorable time,) in many of which he had an opportunity of seeing the practical working of the respective apparatus of each. He would here take occasion to express to his professional brethren his sincere acknowledgments for their kindness and attention on the occasion of his visit thereto, in giving him not only the freest access to every part of the building, accompanied with the most elaborate and satisfactory explanations on their part,

but also for the many valuable hints which he is confident he has received from the various superintendents during his short visit to their respective institutions.

Having proceeded as far as Boston in his examination of the various apparatus now in use in the several asylums and hospitals visited by him, and designed respectively for steam and hot water, and ascertaining, upon inquiry of the officers in charge, the results arrived at on their part, from experiments therewith, (certainly the surest test which could be adopted,) together with the peculiar fitness of each for different sized buildings, and the comparative cost of each, it will be sufficient on the present occasion to say that he came to the conclusion that, in consequence of the general compactness of the front building, and considering the size thereof, with its abundant supply of flues for the transmission of the air from the hot air-chambers below, through the entire building, and the facilities thereby afforded for a thorough system of ventilation at all times, all of which could be obtained without additional cost in pipe and fuel; a well constructed and judiciously arranged steam apparatus should be selected, as being the preferable means by which to gain the proposed ends. The same means of enquiry and investigation afforded him the opportunity to satisfy his own mind that gas made from coal or rosin was the only proper agent for lighting the entire institution, and that it was then necessary that arrangements should be made as soon as possible for having the proper fixtures therefor put in the interior of the large building. At a meeting of the commissioners convened soon after his return, the foregoing views were submitted to them, accompanied with a recommendation in accordance therewith, when he had the gratification of finding that they were cordially endorsed by the Board, and a resolution passed that the undersigned be authorised to invite proposals from persons engaged in the construction of similar works elsewhere, for the furnishing and setting up a suitable apparatus both of steam and gas. In order to carry out this res-

olution of your Board, a circular was addressed in the form of a letter to various individuals, as also companies, who are engaged in the manufacture of such works, descriptive of the general plan of the buildings and measurements thereof, and soliciting therein proposals from them for the erection of a suitable apparatus capable of warming and lighting the same. In response to this application, and after making a critical examination of the premises by a personal inspection of the buildings by several of the individuals thus addressed, bids to execute the proposed work were received therefrom, upon the submission of which to the inspection of the Board of Commissioners, that body decided to accept the one presented by Mr. Joseph Nason, of New York city, a gentleman possessing the highest qualifications for so important an undertaking, and whose extensive experience, derived from the construction of similar works in various portions of the Union, affords the strongest guarantee of a satisfactory and faithful execution of the contract.

At an early period after undertaking the work, that gentleman commenced his operations by laying down the gas pipes in the north wing and central part of the principal building, at the expiration of which time (the 1st of September) the south wing being so far advanced in its roofing, &c., that wing was completed by the last of the same month, by which means it is confidently believed an abundant supply of light can be obtained in every part of the large building at desirable points. Owing to the unfinished condition of the Institution in very many important essentials, thereby preventing its occupancy for at least another year to come, and also in view of the exhausted state of its finances, it has been deemed advisable to postpone until the ensuing spring, the construction of the *steam* apparatus—hence, no progress has been made towards the completion of that important portion of the work.

WATER.—The absolute necessity there is for having an abundant supply of water, which shall be not only abun-

dant and permanent, but accessible at all points in the building, together with the manner of obtaining the same, it being a subject of such serious moment, has engaged much of your attention, and permit me to say of anxious solicitude on my part, chiefly because of the difficulties which seem to present themselves to every plan suggested for its accomplishment. Located as the buildings are, upon an eminence of greater altitude than those contiguous to it, (with a single exception,) they are necessarily too far removed from the nearest springs, even were they capable of furnishing the requisite quantity ; it becomes necessary to resort to *wells* of suitable size, or to the *stream* flowing through the lands of the Asylum, but which is somewhat remote therefrom, and a hundred feet below the foundation of the building, for a supply of water. Had it been decided to look to the latter source, to wit : Rocky Branch, for that supply, it would be necessary to employ machinery, and that somewhat expensive, which would have to be propelled by steam, or some other equally reliable power, if such could be obtained.

In view, therefore, of the monied outlay necessarily involved in the construction of other portions of the Institution, it was deemed best, for the present at least, to make an experiment with the first proposed mode, which, should it prove unsuccessful, will be attended with comparatively small cost. For this purpose, a skillful individual has been employed to excavate a well, contiguous to the Boiler-house, of such dimensions (15 feet in diameter,) as would ensure a supply of water at all times, provided a bold and constant stream can be reached. His operations have been materially retarded thus far, however, from having encountered layers of rock at a point very near the surface, and which still obstruct his progress. Its position has been selected near the proposed location of the steam engine, in order that the necessary power may be the more readily applied to the pump designed to force the water to the various points needed.—

It is hoped after the rock shall have been passed, and excavations made to the usual depth with other wells near, that the efforts now being made, may prove successful by reaching an adequate supply. Should, however, a different result follow, and the necessity continue of resorting to the only alternative left, that of forcing the water from Rocky branch, there will be ample time during the coming year for putting the work into operation. It is likewise proposed to use two cisterns for the reception of the water falling from the roof, as a supply in the event of fire occurring in any part of the building.

In the foregoing details, I have omitted enumerating at the present time the various fixtures which it is designed shall be constructed in the interior of the several buildings:—for example, those pertaining to the water closets and bathing rooms, soil pipes, the water tanks and their connecting pipes, with the proposed plan of forced ventilation *downwards* by means of a connexion between the soil pipe and the large smoke stack attached to the furnaces, and *upwards* by means of a large *fan* propelled by steam, and designed to transmit abundant currents of fresh air into all the apartments—also, of the cooking, washing and drying apparatus intended for their appropriate positions, besides various other details of the general plan of execution.

At some future time when the whole work upon the Institution shall have been completed, and be found upon the occupancy thereof (as we doubt not it will,) to answer in an admirable manner, the purposes and ends for which it was designed, a detailed description thereof will not only then be most appropriate, but it is believed will prove of deep interest to the citizens of the State.

The last and most important subject claiming your consideration at the present time, is that of the *finances*, and their insufficiency for the completion of the Institution.

By reference to the public Treasurer's books, it will appear that with the exception of four hundred and ninety-two

dollars and twenty cents now remaining to its credit, the yearly instalments payable under the acts of the Legislature of 1849 and 1852 have been consumed in the erection of the buildings to their present condition—of the *aggregate* amount thereof, there remains only the instalment of 1855 yet unexpended. As the amount derived therefrom will be required to finish the payment for wood work yet to be done, and likewise for the cast iron window sash and soil pipe (both of which are now under contract,) also, gas pipes already laid down, plastering and stuccoing now being executed with lime and other materials used therewith, besides other incidental expenditures, it becomes necessary that provision in the way of additional funds be early made, in order that the work may be carried on, so that the board of commissioners may be thereby enabled to have the buildings completed within a reasonable time to come ; an event in the history of the Institution anxiously looked for and greatly desired by many of our fellow-citizens.

When it is remembered that already five years have elapsed since the foundation walls were begun, there is much cause to fear that very many of those persons who have watched its progress during this time, with anxious solicitude, have already begun to realize, in their own breasts, the truth of the maxim that “hope deferred maketh the heart sick.” Since my connection with the institution, an opportunity has been afforded me of learning the extent, in some degree, of the necessities there are abroad in the State for it, and also the amount of desire there is on the part of many for it as an asylum for their friends ; and I am constrained to say that in both particulars they are both urgent and numerous. In view of such a state of things, therefore, it has been with sorrow on my part that I have been compelled to answer the oft repeated inquiry, “when will the Asylum be ready?” with the unsatisfying, and doubtless, to the individuals who have made it, the heart sickening response of, “many months yet to come.” Under such circumstances as are here alluded

to, the serious inquiry arises, shall the present state of things continue, or shall the necessary measures be adopted whereby the buildings may be completed at the earliest day practicable? In replying to this inquiry I feel confident that I do no more than justice to that body when I express the confident assurance that the Legislature of the State soon to assemble, will willingly respond favorably to your request by placing at your disposal a sufficient amount of money for the purpose of completion. Very many considerations might be urged in favor of such action on the part of that body were they deemed necessary to secure the proposed object. But, surely, in this age of christian philanthropy and enlarged benevolence, it is not necessary to suggest motives for the performance of that which the demands alike of charity and a wise consideration equally require. It is enough to know that of the 500 insane in the State, the friends of many anxiously awaiting the completion of the institution in order to place them within its walls, to cause a hearty response from those whose legislative aid is thus appealed to. It is greatly to be feared that there are now some of those, the victims of insanity since the work of construction began, and who for the want of a suitable hospital treatment at the beginning of their attack might have been relieved, doomed to be tenants for life of this or some other institution.

The exercise of a *prudent economy* likewise furnishes much reason for the course suggested above, as there is no better established maxim in medical science than this, to wit: that the chances of recovery are diminished with the duration of the attack, and of course the expense attendant upon the cure, must be far less than the support of the same individual when he has become hopelessly insane—looking to the Asylum also as a *custodial* agent, it is not less demanded, as the accommodations at their respective homes, even for the more wealthy, can hardly be regarded equal with those to be had in a well regulated Asylum, and of course

it is much more necessary and needed by the less wealthy who constitute the much larger portion of the insane.

The records of crime in one of the Courts in the State as established during the present year, furnish the consummation of a sad tragedy which might have never occurred, had there been an apartment in the Institution ready to receive an unfortunate individual, whose only misfortune consisted in being insane, and whose social position in life was that of a wife and the mother of several children. He who should ever have been her watchful and tender protector, in accordance with his marriage vows "to keep her in sickness and health," became her cruel and relentless torturer, and after a series of the most heartless abuses and more than savage cruelties, consummated his fiendish acts by imbruing his hands in her blood. I need hardly add that in accordance with the demands of the violated law of the land, the perpetrator thereof paid the just penalty with his own life upon the gallows. Reference has been made to this event simply to arrest the attention of those whose opportunities of personal observation of the wants of the insane have not afforded them the means of ascertaining their extent. There is too much reason to fear, judging from facts which are made known by others, that a recital of the actual condition of many would form a history, the sad details of which would cause a thrill of pain to the heart of the humane. Of the indigent insane now in the State, some are occupying cells in the jails of their respective counties, others at the respective poor houses, while others (and we would hope but very few such) are confined within such limits and under such shelters as would seem alone fit for untamed beasts. That such a state of things should exist no longer than can be avoided, the universal sentiment and sympathies of the community at large will attest; and while a retrospect of the past, with a due consideration of the present wants of many, excites a painful emotion, it will doubtless have

the important effect of causing a speedy accomplishment of the undertaking on the part of the State, and one which we trust is destined to bring so much of gladness to many now desolate hearts. Should the Legislature at its approaching session cause the required amount for the completion thereof to be appropriated, it may be considered that by the 1st of January 1856, the work upon the building will have been so far completed as to justify the board of commissioners in opening the apartments for the reception of patients. With the termination of the present year, the great bulk of the carpenter's work will have been completed, the iron sash for windows properly adjusted, and the plastering somewhat advanced, so that there will remain but comparatively a small part of the work unfinished, in order to its being rendered habitable. In all institutions of this kind there are necessarily, however, a variety of fixtures for the *interior*, requiring for their construction a considerable outlay. Besides the heating and ventilating apparatus, bathing rooms, water closets, tanks, pipes, soil piping, cooking apparatus, washing and drying do., steam boilers, with engine pumps, &c., there are other fixtures pertaining to windows and doors, and other appliances which serve to swell the list to a considerable number, and are not less indispensable towards the complete equipment of such an institution. Numerous as these fixtures are however, the construction of the entire series can be carried on at the same time, thereby avoiding any cause of delay in the completion of the same.

In view therefore of the urgent demand ~~that~~ is on the part of many in the State, and the practicability of accomplishing it, we may safely estimate that a space of twelve months more will be ample time for the completion of the remainder of the work, and enable your board to put the institution into operation.

In order that you may submit the same to the consid-

eration of the Legislature, I present the following list of items yet to be performed, with the probable cost of each, making the aggregate amount of ~~sixty~~ ^{sixty} thousand dollars required for disbursement during the ensuing year, and necessary to equip the Asylum for occupancy at the time above indicated, which I respectfully suggest should be applied for at the approaching session of that body.

ESTIMATES FOR COMPLETION.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Plastering, stuccoing, &c., | \$15,000 |
| Warming apparatus, | 14,000 |
| Ventilating do. | 1,600 |
| Steam engine, pumps &c., | 2,500 |
| Water apparatus tanks, | 4,000 |
| Painting, with materials, | 5,000 |
| Cooking, washing and drying apparatus, | 2,000 |
| Gas fixtures, | 6,000 |
| Furniture for building, | 15,000 |
| Locks, wire gratings, &c., | 2,000 |
| Contingencies, | 3,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$70,100 |

In this enumeration it will be seen that no provision has been made for enclosing the buildings of the Asylum, an improvement most essential to the welfare of the institution.

It may be proper to state that the above estimates are based partly upon contracts already made for some, and partly upon prices as they have been furnished by contractors, who are now prepared to supply other of the articles specified. While the actual cost of some may vary somewhat from the *estimated* price, it is believed that the aggregate amount will be sufficient for the entire work. Trusting as I do that your application in behalf of the appropriation will meet with a favorable response from the Legislature,

that notwithstanding the regret occasioned by the length of time which will then have been consumed (six years,) in completing the Asylum, it will be a cause of congratulation, equally to that body as well as the citizens of the State, that *so fine a structure* of such dimensions as to size, and its many internal and valuable appendages, all built of the most substantial materials, will have been erected and furnished at a cost, it is believed, (owing to the favorable contracts entered into on the part of your board,) much less in amount than the average of such buildings in our country.

In conclusion it remains for me to express to the members of your board, the pleasure and satisfaction I have experienced in our official intercourse during the past year, and in especial manner to make my acknowledgements for the many allowances on your parts towards my insufficiencies—for the important position you have assigned me. Coming as I did among you, comparatively a stranger, I have found you not only hearty co-workers with me in the important undertaking, but also *friendly* counsellors, ever ready to lend your valuable aid in the prosecution thereof. That such will continue to be your course, I have every assurance from the past, while it shall be my part to desire, and my best efforts not to be ~~unworthy~~ to obtain a continuance of your friendly considerations during the remainder of our official connection.

EDWARD C. FISHER, *Superintendent.*

| | | | |
|------------|--|--------------|----------|
| 1850. | | | |
| May, | Paid C. L. Hinton, Treasurer of Commissioners, | | \$2,000 |
| July, | " Joseph Lane, Contract for Brick, | | 500 |
| August, | " Sylvester Smith, Pay for Land, | | 1,417 63 |
| September, | " Joseph Lane, on Contract, | | 1,000 |
| October, | " " Brick Work, | | 500 |
| | " A. Davis, Architect, | | 150 |
| November, | " C. L. Hinton, Treasurer Commissioners, | | 1,000 |
| | " E. Hall, for Land, | | 500 |
| | " C. L. Hinton, Treasuer, | | 500 |
| December. | " E. Colburn, on Contract, | | 600 |
| | " Daniel McKnight, do., | | 700 |
| | " W. W. Holden, Advertising Proposals, | | 50 |
| 1851. Jan. | " Treasurer Hospital, | | 500 |
| March, | " E. Colburn, Contract, | | 500 |
| May, | " Joseph Lane, Bricklayer, | | 500 |
| June, | " J. & J. W. Conrad, Contract, | | 1,000 |
| | " G. W. Mordecai, (Phillips & Derby,) Tin, | | 563 26 |
| | " " (McKnight & Colburn,) | | 2,335 |
| July, | " Messrs. Conrad, Contract, | | 1,500 |
| | | \$ 15,771 39 | |
| | | \$ 15,771 39 | |

Amount carried forward,

(Account Current Continued.)

| 1851. | Amount brought forward, | \$ | 15,771 39 | \$ | 5,000 |
|--|-------------------------|----|-------------|----|--------|
| September, Paid D. W. Courts, Treasurer Board Commissioners, | | | | | 250 |
| November, " Joseph Lane, Contract, | | | | | 1,000 |
| " E. Colburn, do., | | | | | 291 90 |
| December, " Patrick McGowan, Labor, | | | | | 1,000 |
| " Lane & McKnight, do., | | | | | 1,000 |
| " Messrs. Conrad, do., | | | | | 360 38 |
| " W. J. Lougee, Material and Labor, | | | | | 2,000 |
| " Lane & McKnight, Contract, | | | | | 1,000 |
| " Messrs. Conrad, do., | | | | | 132 |
| " Henry Patterson, Labor, | | | | | 100 |
| " J. O. Watson, Hauling Lime, | | | | | 1,500 |
| " Lane & McKnight, Contract, | | | | | 500 |
| " Messrs. Conrad, do., | | | | | 1,000 |
| February, " D. W. Courts, Treasurer Commissioners, | | | | | 400 |
| " E. Colburn, Contract, | | | | | 1,000 |
| " Messrs. Conrad, do., | | | | | 500 |
| " " do., | | | | | 1,000 |
| March, " Lane & McKnight, do., | | | | | 500 |
| April, " Colburn, do., | | | | | |
| | | | 18,534 28 | | |
| | | | \$34,305 67 | | |

Amount carried forward,

(Account Current Continued.)

| | Amount brought forward, | \$ | \$ |
|------------|--|--------------|----------|
| 1852. | | \$ 34,305 67 | |
| May, | Paid Messrs. Conrad, do., | 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| | " D. W. Courts, Treasurer Board Commissioners, | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| June, | " Phelps & Dodge, bill repairing, | 814 98 | 814 98 |
| | " E. Colburn, Contract, | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| July, | " D. W. Courts, Treasurer Board Commissioners, | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contractors, | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | " " Lane & McKnight, do., | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| August, | " E. Colburn, on full Contract, | 2,086 68 | 2,086 68 |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, do., | 500 | 500 |
| | " " Lane & McKnight, do., | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| September, | " Conrad, do., | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | " " Lane & McKnight, do., | 400 | 400 |
| October, | " Conrad, do., | 500 | 500 |
| | " Patterson & Cooper, Material, | 1,077 51 | 1,077 51 |
| November, | " Conrad, do., | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | " Lane & McKnight, do., | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | " " " " | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Dec. 1853. | " Conrad, do., | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| January, | " Lane & McKnight, do., | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | | 26,879 17 | |
| | Amount carried forward, | \$61,184 84 | |

(Account Current Continued.)

| 1853. | | Amount brought forward, | \$ | 61,184 84 | \$ |
|-----------|--|-------------------------|----|-------------|----------|
| February, | Paid Messrs. Conrad, Material, | | | | \$ 1,000 |
| June, | " D. W. Courts, Treasurer Board Commissioners, | | | | 5,000 |
| | " Messrs. Lane & McKnight, Material, | | | | 2,000 |
| August, | " Conrad, do., | \$2,556 85 | | | 2,000 |
| | " Conrad, do., | 1,000 | | | |
| | " " " | 1,000 | | | |
| | " " " | | | | |
| | " Bill Copper, | 680 45 | | | 5,237 30 |
| | " Lane & McKnight, Lime, | 175 00 | | | |
| | " " " | 2,000 00 | | | |
| October, | " James Puttick, Work, | | | | 2,175 |
| | " H. Pescud's Bill, | | | | 100 |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contract, | | | | 378 31 |
| | " D. McKnight, Lime, | | | | 1,000 |
| November, | " " " | | | | 172 71 |
| | " Messrs. Lane & McKnight, Contract, | | | | 362 90 |
| | " " " | | | | 2,000 |
| | " Conrad, do., | | | | 6,000 |
| | " " Painting, | | | | 1,000 |
| | | | | 28,505 22 | 75 |
| | Amount carried forward, | | | \$89,686 06 | |

(Account Current Continued.)

| 1853. | | Amount brought forward, | \$ 89,686 06 | \$ | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------|--|
| | | | | | |
| December, | Paid James Puttick, Work, | | | 150 | |
| | " Western Bill, Southern road freight, | | | 12 75 | |
| | " Messrs. Lane & McKnight, Contract, | | | 5,000 | |
| | " " Conrad, do., | | | 1,000 | |
| | " Dr. Shusee, Salary Account, | | | 400 | |
| | " Edward C. Fisher, Treasury Expenses, | | | 200 | |
| | " Peterson's Bill, Material, | | | 271 92 | |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contract, | | | 1,000 | |
| | " " " " | | | 2,000 | |
| | " A. J. Lougee, Bill, | | | 581 45 | |
| 1854. Jan. February, March, | " E. C. Fisher, Superintendent, Salary Account, | | | 500 | |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contract, | | | 1,000 | |
| | " J. Puttick, Work, | | | 309 40 | |
| | " D. McKnight, Lime, | | | 182 45 | |
| April, | " E. C. Fisher, Superintendent Salary, | | | 100 | |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contract, | | | 2,000 | |
| | " " Lane & McKnight, do., | | | 1,000 | |
| May, | " D. McKnight, Lime, | | | 186 68 | |
| | " Gayland, Lightning Rods, | | | 100 | |
| Amount carried forward, | | | 15,994 65 | | |
| | | | \$ 105,680 71 | | |

(Current Account Continued.)

| 1854. | Amount brought forward, | \$105,680 71 | |
|------------|--|--------------|--|
| July, | Paid W. J. Clarke, Oils, | 131 10 | |
| | " W. Westcott, Hardware, | 357 96 | |
| | " Messrs. Conrad, Contracts, | 1,000 | |
| | " D. W. McKnight, Lime, | 186 90 | |
| | " J. Woltering, | 10 | |
| August, | " E. C. Fisher, Superintendent, Salary, | 300 | |
| | " Pesend's Bill, Sundries, | 69 15 | |
| | " Vass' Bill, Freight, | 53 14 | |
| | " Joseph Nason, Gas Fitting, | 100 | |
| | " Messrs. Tucker's Bill, Hauling, | 249 34 | |
| | " " Conrad, Contract, | 1,000 | |
| September, | " Lane & McKnight, Contract, \$1,000 ; Conrad, do., \$2,000, | 3,000 | |
| | " David McKnight, Lime, | 94 76 | |
| | " W. W. Holden, Painting, | 65 | |
| | " S. Taylor, Quarrying Rock, | 27 | |
| | " W. Bird, Digging Well, | 42 | |
| | " Messrs. Tasker & Morris, Iron Columns, | 223 77 | |
| | " E. C. Fisher, Expense of Well, | 100 | |
| | " M. M. McPheters' Bill, Lime, | 199 50 | |
| | | 7,209 62 | |
| | Amount carried forward, | \$112,790 33 | |

(Account Current Continued.)

| | | | | |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------|-------|
| 1834. | Amount brought forward, | | \$112,790 33 | 39 09 |
| October, | Paid Joseph Nason, Gas Works, | | 8,116 | |
| | " Lane & McKnight in full, Brick Work, | | | |
| | " Phelps, Dodge & Co., New York, per bill of Tin and Cop- per for Asylum, | | 1,391 48 | |
| | " Joseph Nason, for Gas Fittings, | 9,646 57 | 100 | |
| | | \$122,475 99 | | |

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

On account of State of North Carolina Lunatic Asylum.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------|----|-----------|----|------------|
| Amount of State Tax paid into the Public Treasury by Sheriffs in the year | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1849, | | | \$ | 19,813 34 |
| " | " | " | 1850, | | | | 19,862 36 |
| " | " | " | 1851, | | | | 20,202 11 |
| " | " | " | 1852, | | | | 20,874 45 |
| " | " | " | 5853. | | | | 20,847 12 |
| " | " | " | 1854, | | | | 21,329 72 |
| By amount Drafts on Public Treasury, | | | | | | \$ | 122,929 10 |
| " | " | " | 1850, | \$ | 8,867 63 | | |
| " | " | " | 1851, | | 17,806 04 | | |
| " | " | " | 1852, | | 32,511 17 | | |
| " | " | " | 1853, | | 37,435 89 | | |
| " | " | " | 1854, | | 16,208 69 | | |
| Paid in October, | | | | | 9,607 48 | | |
| | | | | | | | 122,436 90 |
| 1854. Oct. 1. Balance unclaimed, | | | | | | \$ | 492 20 |
| Balance due Asylum, Nov. 1, | | | | \$ | 492 20 | | |